

CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 6 February 1948

SUBJECT Masaryk Not to Align Self with
Any Political Party

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. At a meeting between National Socialist leaders and Foreign Minister Masaryk on 1 February 1948, the National Socialists offered to champion Masaryk for a post in the Government after the next elections on condition that he refuse to align himself with any political party.
2. The National Socialists feel that Masaryk, by keeping himself free from party commitments, can avoid attacks from the Communists and at the same time serve the anti-Communist cause. In addition, his candidacy for the Presidency would be considerably strengthened, should President Benes's health take a turn for the worse.
3. At the meeting, Masaryk made no promises to the National Socialist group as a whole. He did, however, confide to one of the leaders that he does not intend to line up with any political party, although the Social Democrats have been pressing him to affiliate himself with them.

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